and earth conductors strung over 120 miles and 65 miles of the line respectively. The entire line is expected to be completed before the end of 1953.

"(b) Many of the civil engineering works and a good part of work relating to the Power House and sub-stations have been completed and the other items are in an advanced stage of construction. Most of the machinery required ordered from overseas has arrived and has been transported to the site.

"(c) The first generator in the power house is expected to commence operation by about the middle of 1954 and the entire scheme is expected to be completed by the end of 1957."

SRI K. KRISHNA RAO :—" డబ్బులేవనే సాకుతోటి ఈ project ను slow down చేయడమనేది జరిగిందా ? "

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" Notice, Sir."

Relief to victims of fire.

* 327 *Q.*—SRI R. S. ARUMUGAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state whether it is a fact that compensation is refused to the Harijans, when their houses are set fire to by othesr, while it is given when houses are burnt accidentally?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" No distinction is made between Harijans and Caste Hindus in the matter of relief to victims of fire. Relief is granted in all cases in which the outbreak of fire is accidental. But in cases of arson or in cases where mischief is suspected, there is no legal obligation on the part of the Government to grant any relief to the victims. They have, however, been sanctioning relief in genuine cases on compassionate grounds."

SRI R. S. ARUMUGAM :—" May I know whether the Government will be pleased to reconsider the question of sanctioning relief to the Harijans in cases of arson and in cases where mischief is suspected? In view of the fact that the refusal of such relief will be a sort of encouragement to the opponents to bring down the poor Harijans by such unfair methods, will the Government be pleased to sanction relief to such victims? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" I have already said that even in non-accidental cases relief is being given."

Retrenchment of workers in Sree Saila Industries near Quilandy, Malabar.

* 328 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state whether the Government got any memorandum from the workers of the Sree Saila Industries near Quilandy, Malabar, regarding their grievances, and if so, the action taken thereon?

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THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" A memorandum was received in August 1952 from the President, Shri Saila Labour Union, Vanmukam, Katalur P.O., North Malabar, regarding retrenchment of workers in Shri Saila Industrial and Spiritual Colony Charities, Kadalur. The Government considered the memorandum together with the reports received from the Labour Officer, Kozhikode, and the Commissioner of Labour and decided that there was no case for adjudication and that the parties must be informed accordingly."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" What were the reasons given by the Labour Officer for not treating this dispute as a case fit for adjudication? Secondly, supposing workers who have put in service for a long period of time in a factory are retrenched without being paid the wages due to them under the Trade Union Act, is it not the duty of the Government to see that the retrenched workers are given unemployment allowance and the wages due under the Act? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" The Government are satisfied that the retrenchment was not made for the purpose of victimization, but that it was made for financial reasons. The Government are also satisfied that it was made *bona fide* in that the management has already taken back 14 out of 41 workers and has promised to take back more workers as and when vacancies arise."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" The Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour has stated that 14 workers were taken back by the management."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Let the hon. Member put it in the form of a question."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" These 14 workers have got only a few years' service to their credit, whereas the workers who have got more years' service to their credit have not been taken back. Is this victimization or not? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" I should like to have notice of this question. If the hon. Gentleman writes to me making these specific charges, I shall look into the matter."

Irrigation projects in Sompeta taluk, Srikakulam district.

* 329 *Q.*—SRI P. PUNDARIKAKSHACHARYULU (on behalf of Sri G. Latchanna): Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) how long the projects of Paidigam and Hamsarali of Sompeta taluk, Srikakulam district, have been under the consideration of the Government;

(*b*) the present stage of the projects; and

(*c*) when the work on the projects is expected to commence?